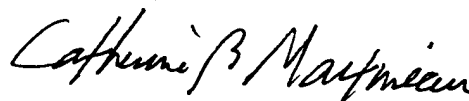


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed in order to place the claims found in the priority application no. 02023564.4 filed October 23, 2002, in compliance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office regulations regarding claims. No new matter is being added. These claims present patentable subject matter and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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